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Joe Courtney
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June 17, 2021

Christopher P. Logan
Assistant Administrator (Acting)
FEMA Grant Programs Directorate
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street SW
Washington, DC 20024

RE: Mystic Fire Department's Proposal for FY21 Port Security Grant Program

Dear Administrator Logan:

It is my honor to write to you today in enthusiastic support of the Mystic Fire Department (MFD) application for the 2021 Port Security Grant Program (PSGP). Located in the heart of the southeastern Connecticut coastline, the MFD serves as part of the New London Port Area Marine Group along side New London, Groton, Waterford, and Norwich. As a member of this group, the MFD provides regional law enforcement efforts in addition to responding to natural hazards and critical incidents.

The MFD is the only agency in the region that owns a marine vessel equipped with both a fire pump and a CBRNE detector. This vessel is used in both local and regional missions and is critical in carrying out port security missions in a consistent manner. In order to continue to provide these vital security services, the MFD needs access to funding to sustain this vessel—the most advanced rapid response vessel in the Long Island Sound sector. The MFD is funded primarily through the town of Stonington's municipal budget, which has weathered immense strain since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in March of 2020. Failing to sustain this vessel would mean the larger region would be left with the equipment necessary to execute consistent, efficient, and effective regional emergency responses.

The southeastern Connecticut coastline is home to a vast amount of sites of critical infrastructure, from Pfizer, Inc. and the Gold Star Bridge, to General Dynamics Electric Boat and the Millstone Nuclear Power Plant and many more. It is crucial that our security services have the tools that they need to protect and serve these sites, as well as our shoreline communities and harbors. For these reasons, I fully support the Mystic Fire Department application to the 2021 Port Security Grant Program and I ask that you give it full and fair consideration as you evaluate this year's applicants.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,


JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress

